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Letter dated 30 June 2014 from the representatives of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, the Bahamas, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Dominica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Nauru, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, the Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, South Sudan, Suriname, Togo, the United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Conferences

For thousands of years the Jewish people have observed Yom Kippur, "The Day of Atonement", in which they reflect on the events of the past year and pray that all peoples will enjoy a year of good health, peace and prosperity.

Yom Kippur is the most sacred day in the Jewish calendar. The Jewish people believe that on this holy day every person's deeds are weighed on the heavenly scales of justice and the blessings of the coming year are determined by the good deeds performed in the service of others. In the days leading up to Yom Kippur, Jews throughout the world seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Jews fast, abstain from work, and spend the day in prayer and contemplation.

The messages of Yom Kippur are universal and as such, we the representatives of the delegations listed below are writing to request that Yom Kippur be included as an official holiday of the United Nations as from 2015.

Currently, the United Nations recognizes the major festivals of many of the world's main religions, yet Judaism is not represented. We believe that the United Nations calendar should reflect the Organization's founding principles of coexistence, justice and mutual respect.

We urge the United Nations to correct this inequity and recognize the holiest day of the Jewish faith. We should be grateful if you would have this letter

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distributed as a document of the Committee on Conferences to the members of the Committee so that this proposal can be given due consideration.

(*Signed*) Ferit **Hoxha**
Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Narcís **Casal de Fonsdeviela**
Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Elliston **Rahming**
Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Guillermo **Rishchynski**
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(*Signed*) Bafétigué **Ouattara**
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(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative of Dominica to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Tekeda **Alemu**
Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Denis G. **Antoine**
Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gert **Rosenthal**
Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mary Elizabeth **Flores**
Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
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(*Signed*) Jane J. **Chigiyal**
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(*Signed*) Isabelle F. **Picco**
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Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations

(*Signed*) U. Joy **Ogwu**
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Caleb **Otto**
Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Mary **Morgan-Moss**
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(*Signed*) Libran N. **Cabactulan**
Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Eugène-Richard **Gasana**
Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ali'ioaiga Feturi **Elisaia**
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Permanent Representative of Seychelles to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Francis Mading **Deng**
Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Henry Leonard **Mac-Donald**
Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Kodjo **Menan**
Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Samantha **Power**
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gonzalo **Koncke**
Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Eric Belleay **Kalotiti**
Deputy Permanent Representative of
Vanuatu to the United Nations and Chargé d'affaires a.i.